

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fiftieth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2012

Senate Engrossed  
**FILED**  
**KEN BENNETT**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

CHAPTER 8

## **SENATE BILL 1004**

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-1281, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO DENTAL  
HYGIENISTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-1281, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 32-1281. Practicing as dental hygienist; supervision  
5 requirements; definitions

6 A. A person is deemed to be practicing as a dental hygienist if the  
7 person does any of the acts or performs any of the operations included in the  
8 general practice of dental hygienists, dental hygiene and all related and  
9 associated duties.

10 B. Only a licensed dental hygienist or dentist may perform the  
11 following:

- 12 1. Prophylaxis.
- 13 2. Scaling.
- 14 3. Closed subgingival curettage.
- 15 4. Root planing.
- 16 5. Administering local anesthetics and nitrous oxide.
- 17 6. Placing of periodontal sutures as prescribed in subsection F of  
18 this section.

- 19 7. Examining the oral cavity and surrounding structures.
- 20 8. Periodontal examination.
- 21 9. Recording of clinical findings.

- 22 10. Compiling case histories.

23 C. A licensed dental hygienist may:

- 24 1. Expose and process dental radiographs.
- 25 2. Perform all functions authorized and deemed appropriate for dental  
26 assistants.

27 D. The board by rule shall prescribe the circumstances under which a  
28 licensed dental hygienist may:

- 29 1. Apply preventive and therapeutic agents, used in relation to dental  
30 hygiene procedures, to the hard and soft tissues.
- 31 2. Use emerging scientific technology and prescribe the necessary  
32 training, experience and supervision to operate newly developed scientific  
33 technology. A dentist who supervises a dental hygienist whose duties include  
34 the use of emerging scientific technology must have training on the use of  
35 the emerging technology that is equal to or greater than the training the  
36 dental hygienist is required to obtain.

37 3. Perform other procedures not specifically authorized by this  
38 section.

39 E. Except as provided in subsections F and H of this section, a dental  
40 hygienist shall practice under the general supervision of a dentist licensed  
41 pursuant to this chapter.

42 F. Dental hygienists shall practice under the direct supervision of a  
43 dentist licensed pursuant to this chapter when performing the following  
44 procedures and after completing a course of study recognized by the board:

1           1. Administering local anesthetics. A DENTAL HYGIENIST MAY ADMINISTER  
2 LOCAL ANESTHETICS TO A PATIENT OF RECORD UNDER GENERAL SUPERVISION IF ALL OF  
3 THE FOLLOWING ARE TRUE:

4           (a) THE PATIENT IS AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

5           (b) THE PATIENT HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY A DENTIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO  
6 THIS CHAPTER WITHIN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS.

7           (c) THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL HISTORY SINCE  
8 THE LAST EXAMINATION. IF THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL  
9 HISTORY WITHIN THAT TIME, THE DENTAL HYGIENIST MUST CONSULT WITH THE DENTIST  
10 BEFORE ADMINISTERING LOCAL ANESTHETICS.

11           (d) THE SUPERVISING DENTIST WHO PERFORMED THE EXAMINATION HAS APPROVED  
12 THE PATIENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ANESTHETICS BY A DENTAL HYGIENIST  
13 UNDER GENERAL SUPERVISION AND DOCUMENTED THIS APPROVAL IN THE PATIENT'S  
14 RECORD.

15           2. Administering nitrous oxide analgesia.

16           3. Placing an interrupted suture interdentally to secure soft tissue  
17 papillae that may have inadvertently become displaced during root planing or  
18 closed curettage procedures performed by the dental hygienist, except that a  
19 dental hygienist may not position and suture soft tissue flaps that are  
20 reflected for surgical access and treatment. This procedure applies only to  
21 a dental hygienist who is permitted to perform periodontal suturing on or  
22 before July 31, 2004.

23           G. A dental hygienist may perform dental hygiene procedures in the  
24 following settings:

25           1. On a patient of record of a dentist within that dentist's office.

26           2. Except as prescribed in section 32-1289, in a health care facility,  
27 nursing home, public health agency or institution or public, private or  
28 charter school on patients who have been examined by a dentist within the  
29 previous year.

30           3. In a homebound setting on patients who have been examined by a  
31 dentist within the previous year.

32           H. A dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene services under an  
33 affiliated practice relationship with a dentist as prescribed in section  
34 32-1289.

35           I. For the purposes of this article:

36           1. "Direct supervision" means that the dentist is present in the  
37 office while the dental hygienist is treating a patient and is available for  
38 consultation regarding procedures that the dentist authorizes and for which  
39 the dentist is responsible.

40           2. "General supervision" means that the dentist is available for  
41 consultation, whether or not the dentist is in the dentist's office, over  
42 procedures that the dentist has authorized and for which the dentist remains  
43 responsible.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MARCH 13, 2012.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MARCH 13, 2012.

Passed the House March 8, 2012,

by the following vote: 56 Ayes,

0 Nays, 4 Not Voting

[Signature]  
Speaker of the House

Cheryl Laube  
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate January 19, 2012,

by the following vote: 28 Ayes,

0 Nays, 1 Not Voting

[Signature]  
President of the Senate

Charmian Bellinger  
Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill was received by the Governor this

9th day of March, 2012

at 8:33 o'clock A M.

[Signature]  
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this 13th day of

March, 2012

at 10:05 o'clock A M.

[Signature]  
Governor of Arizona

S.B. 1004

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State  
this 13th day of March, 2012,

at 3:16 o'clock P M.

[Signature]  
Secretary of State